

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending and under consideration. Claims 7-10 have been withdrawn pursuant to an election requirement. Claims 1-6 were rejected.

With this Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended, and Claim 2 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1, and 3-6 are at issue.

I. Objection to The Specification

In regard to the Examiner objection to the specification because of informalities, as illustrated in "In the Specification" section of the present paper Applicants have substituted the title as follows:

"DISPLAY UNIT HAVING SEALING STRUCTURE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD OF SAME"

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this title objection be withdrawn.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claim 2

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 has been cancelled, and its limitations were incorporated in Claim 1. Applicants have substituted the corresponding limitations of Claim 2 by replaced the wording "relative" with the wording "average" prior to their incorporations into Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this claim objection be withdrawn.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1 - 5.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0031379 to Tera et al (Tera).

Claim 1 is directed to a display unit. The display unit comprises a driving substrate having a display area, and a sealing substrate which is arranged on a side where the display area

of the driving substrate is provided. Claim 1 recites that the driving substrate has a protective film which covers the display area and exposes an external connection area adjacent to the display area, that the sealing substrate is arranged in an area corresponding to the display area of the driving substrate; and that an end face of the protective film is formed along a vertical plane including an end face of the sealing substrate which lies on the same side as the end face of the protective film lies.

As amended, Claim 1 recites that “regarding a film thickness distribution of the protective film in an area within 2 mm from the end face of the sealing substrate, when a film thickness in the position sufficiently inside from the end face of the sealing substrate is 1, an average film thickness is 0.95 or more.”

Applicants submit that Tera is silent about the average protective film thickness within 2 mm from the end face of the sealing substrate being .95 or more when a film thickness in a position sufficiently inside from the end face of the sealing substrate is 1. In fact, Tera discloses in Paragraph [0043] that:

“The thickness of the protective layer 6 is not limited to a specific range provided that the required characteristics as the protective layer 6 are satisfied in the present embodiment. Although the thicker the thickness is, the higher the reliability becomes in general, the protective layer 6 may be thin as long as it falls within the allowance of the process and of the protecting characteristics because film formation time is long in case of the ALE method. However, the thickness is preferably at least 5 nm or more, and more preferably 50 nm or more empirically in order to cover foreign matters produced in the underlying layers (structures 2 to 5) during the process, thereby preventing pinholes.”

Thus, Tera is not concerned with the average film thickness within 2 mm from the end face of the sealing substrate in comparison to the film thickness in a position sufficiently inside from the end face of the sealing substrate.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Tera. Thus, Claim 1 is allowable, as well as dependent Claims 3-5 for at least the same reasons.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1 - 6.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,720,203 to Carcia et al (Carcia).

As stated above, amended Claim 1 recites that “regarding a film thickness distribution of the protective film in an area within 2 mm from the end face of the sealing substrate, when a film thickness in the position sufficiently inside from the end face of the sealing substrate is 1, an average film thickness is 0.95 or more.”

Applicants submit that Carcia is also silent about the average protective film thickness within 2 mm from the end face of the sealing substrate being .95 or more when a film thickness in a position sufficiently inside from the end face of the sealing substrate is 1.

In fact, Carcia discloses that the barrier material useful in the barrier layers (protective film) 22, 62 of the invention can be a substance that, when formed as a continuous film 1000 Å⁰ in thickness, has an oxygen and water vapor transport rate of less than 1.0 cc/m² /24 hr/atm, preferably less than 0.2 cc/m² /24 hr/atm. Moreover, each of the barrier layers 22, 62 should be a continuous layer that contains a minimal number of defects that increase the material's oxygen and water vapor permeability characteristics so that it can no longer function as a barrier. Further, in general, the barrier layer may have a thickness in the range of 2-500 nm. However, with some flexible metal films, such as Al foils it is possible to use barrier layers thicker than the preferred ranges. (See column 6, lines 39 - 67).

Thus, Carcia is not concerned with the average film thickness within 2 mm from the end face of the sealing substrate in comparison to the film thickness in a position sufficiently inside from the end face of the sealing substrate.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Carcia. Thus, Claim 1 is allowable, as well as dependent Claims 3-6 for at least the same reasons.

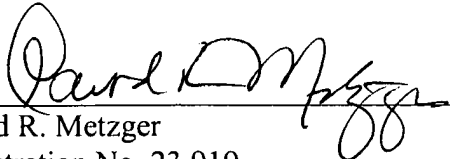
V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 3-6 are allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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